



Testing Schedule 2025-2026

The MCA tests are annual, summative measurements of student achievement that are used, along with many other school and classroom assessments, to evaluate student learning and skills. The Reading and Math MCAs are given in 3rd through 8th grade, and the Science MCA is given in 5th and 8th grade.

The ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs are English language proficiency assessments used to meet federal and state legislative requirements. These assessments are used to monitor English learners' progress as they develop academic language skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

The NWEA is an interim assessment given to all Twin Lakes STEM Academy students three times per year to measure student growth and learning needs. The school uses reading and math sections of the NWEA for K-8, and Science in grades 4-8.

DIBELS is utilized to evaluate early literacy and reading skills for students in K-8, and provides data for potential interventions for students with identified skill needs.

iReady Math Diagnostic is taken by students in the Fall, Winter, and Spring, and provides critical information about academic progress in math for students in K-8.

Source:

The MCAs and ACCESS tests are required by the state of Minnesota. More information about these assessments from the Minnesota Department of Education can be found at: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/>

The NWEA, DIBELS, and iReady Math Diagnostic is required by Twin Lakes STEM Academy, and our authorizer, Volunteers of America. More information about the Volunteers of America charter school authorizing program can be found at <https://www.voa.org>.

Average Time Spent on Assessments:

Students are allowed to take as much time as needed on assessments. The average time that students take on each assessment is:

- MCA Reading: 2.5-3.5 hours
- MCA Math: 1.5-3 hours
- MCA Science: 1.5-2 hours
- ACCESS: 3-4 hours for Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking
- NWEA Reading, Math, and Science: 1 hour each



- DIBELS: 15-30 minutes
- iReady Math Diagnostic: 2-3 hours

Disseminating Results:

Results of the MCA tests will be provided to parents before the first parent-teacher conferences in the following school year.

Results of the ACCESS test will be provided to parents within the first 30 days of the following school year.

Results of all NWEA tests, DIBELS, and iReady Math will be provided to parents with student report cards at the following parent-teacher conferences.

Annual Assessment Calendar:

<i>Assessment:</i>	<i>Grade(s):</i>	<i>Dates:</i>
MCA Reading	3-8	April 13, 2026 - April 17, 2026
MCA Math	3-8	April 27, 2026 - May 1, 2026
MCA Science	5 and 8	May 6, 2026
ACCESS Listening	1-8	February 3, 2026 - February 6, 2026
ACCESS Reading	1-8	February 10, 2026 - February 13, 2026
ACCESS Writing	1-8	February 17, 2026 - February 20, 2026
ACCESS Speaking & Kindergarten	K-8	January 26, 2026 - March 20, 2026
NWEA Reading & Math & Science	K-8	Fall: September 8-19, 2025 Winter: January 12-23, 2026 Spring: May 4, 2026 - May 15, 2026
DIBELS	K-8	Fall: September 8-19, 2025 Winter: January 12-23, 2026 Spring: May 4, 2026 - May 15, 2026
iReady Math Diagnostic	K-8	Fall: September 2-12, 2025 Winter: January 12-23, 2026 Spring: May 4, 2026 - May 15, 2026